

# Clinical Team Meetings of Physicians and Nurses to Promote Patient-Centered Medical Care : Current Status in Obstetrics and Gynecology Ward of University or General Hospitals and Major Women's Hospitals in Japan and Factors Influencing the Prevalence

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## Abstract

Clinical team meetings in hospitals organized and held by physicians and nurses, where treatment and psychosocial issues of patients are discussed, decided, and shared, are important for patient-centered medical practice. This study surveyed the current status of clinical team meetings in obstetrics and gynecology ward of university or general hospitals and major women's hospitals in Japan, and factors influencing the prevalence of team meetings were investigated. Questionnaires were sent to directors of nursing in 670 hospitals. Response rate was 49 percent. Only 11 percent (37/328) of the respondents answered that they held team meetings of physicians and nurses regularly once a week. Twenty percent of the respondent hospitals held team meetings at least once a month. Eighty five percent of respondents who did not hold team meetings answered that they felt the need for such team meetings. Among the respondents who felt the need for team meetings, 10% answered that they hesitated to propose such team meetings to medical staff. National university hospitals had a higher prevalence of team meetings that were held at least once a month and a higher number of obstetrics/gynecology physicians than hospitals of other different types, suggesting that the number of obstetrics/gynecology physicians was a possible factor that determined the presence of team meetings. However, multivariate logistic regression analysis demonstrated no relationship between the presence of team meetings held at least once a month and the number of obstetrics/gynecology physicians. Instead, a significantly positive relationship between the presence of team meetings held at least once a month and the number of obstetrics/gynecology nurses was noted by the analysis. In conclusion, it may be considered that the more nurses are in hospitals, the more team meetings will be prevalent in women's hospitals in Japan.

**Key words;** clinical team meetings, obstetrics/gynecology, women's hospitals, Japan, patient-centered care, what type of factors?, multivariate logistic regression analysis

## Introduction

The situation in the field of medical practice has been changing dramatically. With the advancement of new

technologies and apparatus, medical treatment has become very complicated, and consequently medical incidents and accidents may occur more easily than before, and malpractice may even occur, if treatment

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